

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and at least two adaptors, wherein each adaptor is capable of communicating I/O requests to the at least one storage device, comprising:

detecting an error in a system including a first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

in response to detecting the error, initiating a monitoring state to monitor I/O requests transmitted through a second adaptor;

in response to receiving an I/O request, starting an I/O delay timer that is less than a system timeout period, wherein an error recovery procedure in the system including the first adaptor would be initiated after the system timeout period has expired; and

sending a reset request to the first adaptor in response to detecting an expiration of one started I/O delay timer, wherein sending the reset request further comprises:

issuing a get identifier request to obtain an identifier of the first adaptor, wherein the reset request is sent to the obtained identifier if the identifier is returned in response to the get identifier request.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detected error indicates that the first adaptor is unable to communicate to the system housing the first adaptor.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein I/O requests continue to be processed through the second adaptor until the reset request is sent.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the system timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor; and  
terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after the monitoring timer expires.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~, further comprising:  
terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after sending the reset request.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~, further comprising:  
issuing another get identifier request to the first adaptor if a previous get identifier request failed.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~, further comprising:  
starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the adaptor timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor;  
beginning a process to issue an additional get identifier request to the first adaptor if any previous get identifier request failed; and  
terminating the monitoring state, any pending I/O delay timers, and the process to issue additional get identifier requests after an expiration of the monitoring timer.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 5, wherein the steps of initiating a monitoring state, starting the I/O delay timer and sending the reset request are performed by a device driver executing in an operating system.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the system including the first adaptor is a first system, wherein the device driver and the operating system are in a second system.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the second adaptor is within the system including the first adaptor, and wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the reset of the first adaptor does not effect the second adaptor.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the storage network on which the adaptors and storage devices communicate comprises a loop topology.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the adaptors and storage devices communicate using the Serial Storage Architecture (SSA) protocol.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detected error indicates an error within the first adaptor.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor and not other components within the system including the first adaptor.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reset causes a power cycle of the system including the first adaptor.

18. (currently amended) A system for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and a system including a first adaptor capable of communicating I/O requests to at least one storage device, wherein the system including the first adaptor initiates an error recovery procedure after a system timeout period has expired, comprising:

a second adaptor capable of communicating on the storage network;

means for detecting an error in the system including the first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

means for initiating a monitoring state to monitor I/O requests transmitted through a second adaptor in response to detecting the error;

means for starting an I/O delay timer that is less than a system timeout period in response to receiving an I/O request; and

means for sending a reset request to the first adaptor in response to detecting an expiration of one started I/O delay timer wherein the means for sending the reset request further performs:

issuing a get identifier request to obtain an identifier of the first adaptor, wherein the reset request is sent to the obtained identifier if the identifier is returned in response to the get identifier request.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the detected error indicates that the first adaptor is unable to communicate to the system housing the first adaptor.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein I/O requests continue to be processed through the second adaptor until the reset request is sent.

21. (original) The system of claim 18, further comprising:  
means for starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the system timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor; and  
means for terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after the monitoring timer expires.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The system of claim 18 ~~22~~, further comprising:  
means for terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after sending the reset request.

24. (currently amended) The system of claim 18 ~~22~~, further comprising:  
means for issuing another get identifier request to the first adaptor if a previous get identifier request failed.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 18 ~~22~~, further comprising:  
means for starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the adaptor timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor;  
means for beginning a process to issue an additional get identifier request to the first adaptor if any previous get identifier request failed; and  
means for terminating the monitoring state, any pending I/O delay timers, and the process to issue additional get identifier requests after an expiration of the monitoring timer.

26. (original) The system of claim 18, further comprising:  
an operating system; and  
a device driver executing in the operating system, wherein the steps of initiating a monitoring state, starting the I/O delay timer and sending the reset request are performed by the device driver.
27. (original) The system of claim 26, wherein the system including the first adaptor is a separate system accessible over the storage network.
28. (original) The system of claim 26, wherein the second adaptor is within the system including the first adaptor, and wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor.
29. (original) The system of claim 28, wherein the reset of the first adaptor does not effect the second adaptor.
30. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the storage network on which the adaptors and storage devices communicate comprises a loop topology.
31. (original) The system of claim 30, wherein the adaptors and storage devices communicate using the Serial Storage Architecture (SSA) protocol.
32. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the detected error indicates an error within the first adaptor.

33. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor and not other components within the system including the first adaptor.

34. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the reset causes a power cycle of the system including the first adaptor.

35. (currently amended) An article of manufacture for use in processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and at least two adaptors, wherein each adaptor is capable of communicating I/O requests to the at least one storage device, wherein the article comprises a computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions to perform operations comprising:

detecting an error in a system including a first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

in response to detecting the error, initiating a monitoring state to monitor I/O requests transmitted through a second adaptor;

in response to receiving an I/O request, starting an I/O delay timer that is less than a system timeout period, wherein an error recovery procedure in the system including the first adaptor would be initiated after the system timeout period has expired; and

sending a reset request to the first adaptor in response to detecting an expiration of one started I/O delay timer wherein sending the reset request further comprises:

issuing a get identifier request to obtain an identifier of the first adaptor, wherein the reset request is sent to the obtained identifier if the identifier is returned in response to the get identifier request.

36. (previously presented) The article of claim 35, wherein the detected error indicates that the first adaptor is unable to communicate to the system housing the first adaptor.

37. (previously presented) The article of claim 35, wherein I/O requests continue to be processed through the second adaptor until the reset request is sent.

38. (previously presented) The article of claim 35, further comprising:  
starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the system timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor; and  
terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after the monitoring timer expires.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) The article of claim 35 ~~39~~, further comprising:  
terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after sending the reset request.

41. (currently amended) The article of claim 35 ~~39~~, further comprising:  
issuing another get identifier request to the first adaptor if a previous get identifier request failed.

42. (currently amended) The article of claim 35 ~~39~~, further comprising:  
starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the adaptor timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor;  
beginning a process to issue an additional get identifier request to the first adaptor if any previous get identifier request failed; and



terminating the monitoring state, any pending I/O delay timers, and the process to issue additional get identifier requests after an expiration of the monitoring timer.

43. (previously presented) The article of claim 35, wherein the steps of initiating a monitoring state, starting the I/O delay timer and sending the reset request are performed by a device driver executing in an operating system.

44. (previously presented) The article of claim 43, wherein the system including the first adaptor is a first system, wherein the device driver and the operating system are in a second system.

45. (previously presented) The article of claim 43, wherein the second adaptor is within the system including the first adaptor, and wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor.

46. (previously presented) The article of claim 45, wherein the reset of the first adaptor does not effect the second adaptor.

47. (previously presented) The article of claim 35, wherein the storage network on which the adaptors and storage devices communicate comprises a loop topology.

48. (previously presented ) The article of claim 47, wherein the adaptors and storage devices communicate using the Serial Storage Architecture (SSA) protocol.

49. (previously presented) The article of claim 35, wherein the detected error indicates an error within the first adaptor.

50. (previously presented) The article of claim 35, wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor and not other components within the system including the first adaptor.

51. (previously presented). The article of claim 35, wherein the reset causes a power cycle of the system including the first adaptor.